



BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

J. CLEMINSON,

M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

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Boldon Urban District Council, 1939.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR R. PARRY.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR J. WHITE.

COUN. R. W. BRASS.

COUN. C. S. GREGSON.

„ J. CORNTHWAITE,
J.P.

„ E. NEWTON.
„ MRS. M. STEWART.

„ T. DAVIS.

„ J. SUMMERBELL, J.P.

„ J. G. DURHAM.

„ J. TRACEY.

Chairman of the Health Committee :

COUNCILLOR J. CORNTHWAITE, J.P.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNCIL OFFICES,

EAST BOLDON.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health : J. CLEMINSON, M.B., B.S.,
B.HY., D.P.H.

Deputy „ „ „ J. ROBERTSON, M.B., B.S.
to November, 1939.
D. F. O'KELLY, L.R.C.P.,
L.R.C.S., L.F.P. & S., F.R.I.P.H.
from November, 1939.

Sanitary Inspector : G. HART, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., R.S.I.
Certificate for Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

Clerk to the Health Department : MRS. H. GREEN.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

Medical Superintendent : DR. J. CLEMINSON, M.B., B.S.,
B.HY., D.P.H.

Matron : MISS A. VEALE.

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Boldon Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my Annual Report for the year 1939, due regard has been paid to the Ministry of Health's recommendation to avoid repetition of data, and to keep the report as short as possible. The past year has seen a very welcome reduction in the incidence of infectious disease, but it yet remains to be seen whether the social and economic upheaval of the population as a whole, due to the outbreak of War, will have any adverse effect upon this incidence. Housing, in your area, at present, presents few problems, and the position, as a whole, may be described as satisfactory. The outbreak of War has temporarily put into abeyance the scheme for the provision of a new Joint Isolation Hospital.

It is with regret that we record the death, during the year, of Dr. John Robertson, Deputy Medical Officer of Health. Dr. D. F. O'Kelly, has been appointed Deputy Medical Officer.

I would express my appreciation of the loyal support of your Council and Staff throughout the past year, and more particularly, that given during the last few busy months since the outbreak of War.

I remain,

Madam and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. CLEMINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH OFFICE,

OCTOBER, 1940.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The Area of the District in acres is 8,400.

The Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-year 1939, is 16,550

The number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to the Rate Books is 4,600.

The rateable value is £78,365.

The sum represented by a Penny Rate is £326 10s. 5d

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The chief change of note in the social conditions of this area, has been the considerable reduction in the number of unemployed, although the calling up of men for Military Service may be the chief reason for this reduction. The unemployment figures for Females shews a slight increase.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The following table shows the extent of unemployment in the district :—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
18th December, 1939	469	32	501

The number of unemployed for the previous year was as follows :—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
19th December, 1938	760	23	783

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1939.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATE.

The nett number of births in the District (corrected by the Registrar-General for inward and outward transfers) was 241.

The sex and legitimacy classification is shewn thus :—

	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Live Births :—	241	116	125
Legitimate	236	114	122
Illegitimate	5	2	3

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 14.4

This compares with a Birth Rate of 15.0 per 1,000 of the population of England and Wales.

The following table shews (a) the total number of births ; (b) the number of males born ; (c) the number of females born ; (d) the Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population and (e) the total increase of the population *i.e.* the excess of births over deaths, for the year 1939 and for the immediately preceding five years.

TABLE I.

	Year.	Total Births.	Males.	Females	Birth Rate per 1,000	Total Increase
SOUTH SHIELDS RURAL DISTRICT	1934	315	158	157	14.2	71
	1935	320	170	150	14.6	69
BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT	1936	267	142	125	14.2	58
	1937	234	126	108	14.0	32
	1938	232	122	110	13.9	34
	1939	241	116	125	14.4	37

STILL BIRTHS.

During 1939 there were 8 Still Births in the District.

Still-Births :—	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate	2	6
Illegitimate	0	0

This gives a rate of 33.2 per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births.

The Still Birth Rate of the estimated population is 0.49 per 1,000.

That for England and Wales is 0.59 per 1,000.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

During 1939 there were 141 deaths registered as having occurred within the district, namely, 83 males and 58 females.

The number of deaths of non-residents was 2 females.

The number of deaths of residents in the district, which occurred outside the district, was 43 males and 22 females.

The total number of deaths therefore, when corrected for the inward and outward transfers, is 126 male and 78 female. (Total 204).

The Death Rate (corrected for outward and inward transfers) and including deaths from all causes and at all ages, was 12.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population calculated locally.

The Registrar-General supplies a factor for obtaining a crude Death Rate for the District. This enables the crude Death Rate in the Boldon Urban District to be compared with the crude Death Rate of the country as a whole. Such crude Death Rates are shewn thus :—

Boldon Urban District 14.0 per 1,000 of the estimated Population.

England and Wales 12.1 per 1,000 of the estimated Population.

The following Table shews the variation in the Birth and Death Rates and the increase in population during the preceding five years, as compared with 1939.

TABLE II.

	Year	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Natural Increase in population per 1,000 Living.
SOUTH SHIELDS RURAL DISTRICT	1934	14.2	11.9	2.3
	1935	14.6	11.4	3.2
BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT.	1936	14.2	11.7	2.5
	1937	14.0	12.07	1.93
	1938	13.9	11.9	2.0
	1939	14.4	12.4	2.0

During 1939, 9 children died under the age of five years. Therefore 4.4% of the total deaths were of children under five years.

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

No deaths were notified as being due to puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

13 children died during 1939 before attaining the age of One year.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	10	3	13
Illegitimate	nil.	nil.	nil.

The Death Rate of infants under one year is shewn according to the total number of Live Births and Legitimacy :—

Death Rate for all infants per 1,000 Live Births	53.1
Death Rate for Legitimate infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	54.7
Death Rate for Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	0.0

The following table shews the infantile mortality rate for all infants per 1,000 Live Births in 1939 as compared with the preceding ten years.

TABLE III.
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Live Births.

	<i>Year.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>
SOUTH SHIELDS RURAL DISTRICT.	1929	67
	1930	40
	1931	88
	1932	49
	1933	46
	1934	85
	1935	65
BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT	1936	63
	1937	81
	1938	56.5
	1939	53.1

The infantile mortality rate is slowly declining, the figure of 53.1 comparing very favourably with an average of 64.6 for the preceding ten years. This figure also compares favourably with the corresponding figure for England and Wales, which is 50.0.

Of the 13 infants who died, seven died from congenital malformation prematurity and debility (atrophy and marasmus).

This gives a % of 53.8 deaths of all the infants who died.

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

During the year 1939, there were 7 deaths from the chief Zymotic Diseases.

The following Table shews the number of deaths from the chief Zymotic Diseases for the past 5 years.

TABLE IV.

Population ..	22170	21990	17000	16740	16620	16390
Year	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Measles (all ages)	2	3	1	2	nil.	nil.
Whooping Cough (all ages)	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	1	1	1	2	nil.
Scarlet Fever	1	nil.	nil.	nil.	2	1
Diphtheria	nil.	nil.	nil.	3	8	5
Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fever	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.
	4	4	2	6	12	7

DEATHS FROM CANCER (all ages).

The following table shews the comparative figure for the preceding 10 years.

TABLE V.

	Year	Population	Deaths. Male & Female	Death Rate per 1,000 population
SOUTH SHIELDS RURAL DISTRICT	1929	20,730	28	1.35
	1930	20,850	22	1.05
	1931	20,630	32	1.55
	1932	20,770	38	1.82
	1933	21,000	28	1.43
	1934	22,170	20	0.91
	1935	21,990	30	1.37
BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT	1936	17,000	37	2.20
	1937	16,740	24	1.41
	1938	16,620	23	1.40
	1939	16,390	29	1.77

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT.
STATISTICS FROM THE REGISTRAR GENERAL.

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT, 1939.
RESIDENT POPULATION.
(a) 16,710 (b) 16,390.

COMPARABILITY FACTOR—1.13.

The causes of all the deaths in the district during 1939 of males and females are shown in the following table supplied by the Registrar-General.

TABLE VI.
CAUSES OF DEATH IN BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT
DURING 1939.

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever .....	..	..	..
2. Measles .....	..	..	..
3. Scarlet Fever .....	..	1	1
4. Whooping Cough .....	..	1	1
5. Diphtheria	1	4	5
6. Influenza .....	..	2	2
7. Encephalitis Lethargica ....	..	1	1
8. Cerebro-spinal fever .....	..	..	..
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	5	1	6

	<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
10.	Other Tuberculosis diseases ..	2	2	4
11.	Syphilis .....	..	..	..
12.	G.P.I., tables, etc. ....	..	..	..
13.	Cancer, malignant disease ..	17	12	29
14.	Diabetes	2	2	4
15.	Cerebral haemorrhage, etc. ..	10	7	17
16.	Heart Disease	29	20	49
17.	Aneurysm .....	..	..	..
18.	Other circulatory diseases ..	5	4	9
19.	Bronchitis	13	2	15
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	1	..	1
21.	Other respiratory diseases....	3	..	3
22.	Peptic Ulcer .....	..	1	1
23.	Diarrhoea under 2 years ....	..	..	..
24.	Appendicitis .....	..	..	..
25.	Cirrhosis of liver	2	..	2
26.	Other diseases of liver, etc. ..	1	..	1
27.	Other digestive diseases	2	..	2
28.	Nephritis	2	1	3
29.	Puerperal Sepsis .....	..	..	..
30.	Other puerperal causes .....	..	..	..
31.	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	5	2	7
32.	Senility.....	4	4	8
33.	Suicide .....	..	..	..
34.	Other violence.....	7	6	13
35.	Other defined diseases	15	4	19
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	1	1
		126	78	204

TABLE VII.

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH RATES, AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1939.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's. and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.
	Rates per 1,000 Population.			
BIRTHS—				
Live	15.0	14.8	15.6	12.3
Still	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.44
DEATHS—				
All Causes	12.1	12.0	11.2	11.9
Typhoid and Para- Typhoid fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox .....	..	..	0.00	..
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Scarlet fever	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.02
Influenza	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.18
NOTIFICATIONS—				
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	..	..
Scarlet fever	1.89	1.96	1.78	1.53
Diphtheria	1.14	1.21	1.16	0.98
Enteric fever	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03
Erysipelas	0.34	0.40	0.31	0.37
Pneumonia	1.02	1.21	0.89	0.99
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 year of age	50	53	40	48
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.6	6.3	3.0	8.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY—				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.77	} Not available.		
Others	2.16			
Total	2.93			
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., Live and Still).			
MATERNAL MORTALITY—				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.74	} Not available.		
Others	2.08			
Total	2.82			
NOTIFICATIONS—				
Puerperal fever	} 14.35	} 17.26	} 12.99	} 3.31
Puerperal Pyrexia ..				
				14.22

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological Examination of sputa and throat swabs from general practitioners, are undertaken by the University of Durham at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, by arrangement with the County Council.

Bacteriological Examination for the Year 1939 :—

<i>For Tubercle Bacilli.</i>		<i>For Diphtheria.</i>	
Positive	..... 4	Positive	..... 1
Negative	.....20	Negative	..... 4
	—		—
	24		5
	==		==

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—There is no change from the preceding year—these are adequate.

NURSING, ETC.—As regards facilities for Nursing in the home, and the provision of treatment centres and clinics, there is no change from the preceding year.

HOSPITALS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT—No change.

BOLDON ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—During the past year 92 cases of Infectious disease were admitted to the wards. The number of cases in hospital on 1st January, 1939, was 19, and the number on 31st December, 1939 was 1.

A summary of the cases admitted is shewn thus :—

Scarlet Fever	.....	50
Diphtheria	.....	26
Tonsilitis	.....	7
Influenza	.....	4
Measles	.....	1
Erysipelas	.....	1
Dysentery	.....	3

Of these cases, 12 were admitted from Military Camps within the District.

The past year has shewn a welcome reduction in the number of cases which have been admitted to hospital. The result of the reduction in overcrowding in the hospital, which was so prevalent during the preceding year, has shewn itself by the fewer cases of cross infection which have occurred and also in the reduction of those complications, such as neck glands and abscesses, and running ears, which occur in scarlatinal conditions, due to cross infection between different types of the causal organism.

The absence of side wards for isolating individual cases, about which I commented at length in the Annual Report for 1938, is still keenly felt.

The cases of diphtheria which were admitted during the year shewed a progressive decline in severity from those extremely severe cases which were experienced during 1938. This was particularly noted towards the end of the year, although odd, severe cases, did occur. Paralysis as a complication only occurred in a few cases, and the percentage of cases of heart complications was considerably reduced.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA AND SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Sunderland and South Shields Water Company supplied the whole of the water to the Boldon Urban District during the past year. The supply has been satisfactory and no restrictions have been placed upon quantity.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF THE SUNDERLAND WATER SUPPLY.

<i>Chemical Analysis.</i>	<i>Parts per 100,000.</i>
Total Solids	53.0
Chlorine as Chloride	4.60
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.50
Nitrogen as Nitrites	nil.
Free Ammonia	nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0004
Oxygen Absorbed (3 hrs. at 37°C)	0.0010
Alkalinity	27.60
Total hardness (degrees)	31.5
Colour (hazen degrees)	nil.
Suspended Matter	nil.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Organisms visible on agar after 48 hours incubation at 37°C.—6 per millilitre.

Acid and gas production in Lactose Bile Salt Broth, 48 hours incubation at 37°C. :—1ml., nil ; 10 mls., nil ; 100 mls., nil.

Of the samples examined bacteriologically during 1939 those entirely free from coliform organisms in 100 millilitres amounted to 87.8 per cent. of the total.

Frequent and systematic examination of the water from all the wells are made to ensure that the water supplied is satisfactory and the chemical and bacteriological results show that the water practically does not vary from year to year.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—No important extension of the sewerage system has been made during the year, Two new septic tanks were laid down during the year, one for a large private house, and one for a Brickworks. No sewer was available.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.—One septic tank at Greyhound Kennels, Strother House Farm, has been reconstructed to improve the effluent, before discharge into the stream. The stream has been cleared and silt removed.

(i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Alteration in the area of the district. The unconverted Ash Closets are mainly situated on farms and farm cottages far away from public sewers.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF CONVERSIONS.

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Ash Closets	303	102	92	77	77
Water Closets . .	6,538	4,575	4,669	4,806	4,878
Chemical Closets	..	..	..	..	7

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The Council now scavenges the district with a system using their own vehicles. Three motors are employed, and a bi-weekly service for the removal of refuse has been maintained. Trade refuse from shops is collected for a nominal sum. Refuse is tipped at certain sites in the district, where are situated dis-used clay pits. These sites are fairly we

removed from the nearest habitations, but there is no control over the refuse, which is just tipped indiscriminately.

During the past year there has been some trouble from fires at the tips, and occasional complaints of smells arising from the tips, are received. I feel sure that if there were some control over the refuse, such as that given by covering the surface of the heap with incombustible material, for example, soil, that such troubles as these tip fires and obnoxious smells would be avoided, and also that the tips would be rendered innocuous as a breeding place for flies, and as a harbourage for rats. Such a course would undoubtedly be of advantage to the district from a health point of view, both by the prevention of nuisances, and by the suppression of those factors, such as flies and rats, which may have a direct bearing upon the spread of disease.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.—

<i>Inspection and Visits.</i>	1939.
Number of complaints investigated	46
Number of inspections other than dwelling-houses	34
Number of inspections and visits to Dwelling-Houses under the Public Health Acts ..	321
Number of informal Notices served	19
Number of nuisances abated	18
Number of Statutory Notices served	Nil.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS.

Number of Factories inspected	9
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number investigated	80
Number of houses disinfected	80
Lots of infectious bedding disinfected or destroyed	82

DRAIN TESTS.

Water Pressure :	Positive	30
	Negative	51
	All other Tests....	
	Positive	8
	Negative	48

NATURE OF WORK DONE.

Choked drains cleared.....	3
Drains amended	9
Drains reconstructed	7
Sinks repaired or renewed	4
Dustbins repaired or renewed	1

DWELLINGHOUSES.

Dampness excluded.....	53
Ventilation improved	50
Window cords repaired or renewed	14
Lighting improved ..	58
Kitchen ranges repaired	26
Washing accommodation provided	9
Foodstores ventilated and provided.....	28
Outbuildings repaired	41
General repairs executed	26
New damp proof floors	16
Yards repaved	3

(iv) SHOPS.

Visits and inspections during the year—81. One Sweet shop opened in a back yard and has been prohibited and closed. No formal action was necessary.

One W.C. and washing facilities was installed of service of statutory notice at a catering establishment.

(v) CAMPING SITES.

(1) One Camp Site was licensed during the year, 1938 on a plot of land, near a farm, capable of holding three caravans.

Water supply, ash accommodation and privies are provided.

No other Camp Site has been licensed and several caravan and tent sites have been closed down for camping.

(2) The number of Camping Sites in respect of which licences have been issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Acts, 1936, is one Site for three caravans.

(3) The estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1938, was six on licensed Site.

NOTE.—There are cases of odd week-end campers and holiday camps, being established in the district for periods of several days.

These campers pitch their tents on farm lands, and so far, no nuisances have been created, and the sites are regularly inspected. This camping is very intermittent and does not come within the scope of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The maximum number of campers at any one time including such people, would be twenty.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Fairly successful attempts have been made to extinguish the fires in the two pit heaps; the most effective remedy appears to be the spreading of marl or stone quarry refuse, over the burning portion. Spraying with water is being tried but much steam is caused, although otherwise, this method appears to be effective in controlling any nuisance.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area.

(viii) VERMINOUS HOUSES.

(1)	(a)	Number of Council Houses found to be infested with bed bugs	2
		Number disinfested	2
	(b)	Number of other houses found to be infested with bed bugs	2
		Number disinfested	2

(2) In the Council Houses the walls of the affected room were stripped of wall paper, skirting boards and architraves. All crevices and cracks were treated with a blow lamp. The walls were afterwards sprayed with paraffin.

The owner of the other house shown above carried out methods similar to the Council.

The new tenants were advised (1) to keep the wall free from paper (2) to wash the walls and floors over a period of six weeks with water and washing soda.

(3) There are no methods of ensuring that tenants effects are free from vermin in ordinary removals to Council Houses, and the population from the Clearance Areas has not yet been removed.

(4) The work of disinfestation in Council Houses has been done by the Council's staff, and in other cases by owners and occupiers.

The contents of two of the houses in a Clearance Area were disinfested by contractors using H.C.N. process. The tenants destroyed some portion of their goods at their own free will. After treatment, the goods were sent to the new Council Houses.

(5) Tenants entering a house which has been treated are advised on how to ensure freedom from vermin.

The Council enforces a minute to the effect that occupiers of Council Houses allowing a house to become infested shall receive notice to quit.

4. SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition and water supply of the Schools in the district is satisfactory and it has not been necessary to take any action during the past year in respect of infectious disease amongst school children.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Visits and inspections to dairies and byres during the year—176.

The undermentioned improvements have been effected :—

	<i>Premises.</i>
New Floors	2 Byres.
Additional Ventilation	2 Byres.
Rendering of Walls	2 Byres.
Additional light	2 Byres.
One new Dairy to replace dairy connected with house	1 Dairy.
One new Byre	1 Byre.
Yard adjacent to byre and Dairy re- laid in concrete	1 Byre. 1 Dairy.

The results of the examinations for Bacteriological Analysis are as follows :—

Sample No.	Total No. of Micro Organisms per 1 ml.	1 ml.				Methylene Blue Test.	Grade of Milk.
		1ml	0.1ml	0.01ml	0.001 ml.		
1	27,000	—	—	—	—	Satisfactory.	Ordinary do.
2	5,700	—	—	—	—	do.	do.
3	70,000	+	+	+	—	do.	do.
4	940	—	—	—	—	do.	do.
5	63,000	+	+	—	—	do.	do.
6	151,000	—	—	—	—	Unsatisfactory.	do.
7	90	—	—	—	—	Satisfactory.	do.
8	69,000	—	—	—	—	do.	do.
9	2,370	—	—	—	—	do.	do.
10	3,230	—	—	—	—	do.	do.
11	Over 1,000,000	+	+	+	+	Unsatisfactory.	do.
12	11,300	+	+	+	+	factory do.	

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Under Section 57 Food and Drugs Act, 1938, six licences for Slaughter Houses have been issued, and six applications refused. These were mostly Slaughter-houses attached to the shops.

Slaughtering, however, has been suspended in this district, and the centralised slaughtering establishment is in the adjacent Borough of South Shields. Inspections take place at the shops, and the allocation Depot in this area, which includes the premises where food is prepared

Slaughtering in this area ceased at the outbreak of War and dead meat only is now brought into the district from the South Shields Co-operative abattoir.

All the Butchers killing in the area, deal in prime meat only. No Cows or Bulls were killed in the area.

Notification of slaughtering is written and any other slaughtering outside these fixed times is notified by messages.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	158	..	50	431 plus	67
Number inspected	158	..	50	431	67
All diseases except Tuber- culosis. Whole carcasses condemned .....	..	..	..	..	2
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	12	..	..	2	2
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	7.6%	..	..	5%	6.0
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned .....	..	..	..	..	..
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	12	..	..	..	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	7.6%	..	..	..	3.0

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council have taken samples under the Food and Drugs Acts during the year.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The laboratories at the King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne are used for this purpose.

The nature of work done is the Bacteriological Examination of Milk Samples.

NUTRITION.

No steps have been taken.

SHELLFISH.

There are no shell-fish beds in the area.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During the year ending 31st December, 1939, 75 cases of Infectious Disease, excluding Tuberculosis, were notified. This compares with a figure of 195 for the preceding year.

SCARLET FEVER.

37 cases have been notified as having occurred during the year. The notification figure is 2.3 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with a figure of 6.8 per 1,000 during the preceding year. This shows a very welcome reduction in the number of notifications, but the figure is still above that for England and Wales, which is 1.89 per 1,000.

The disease has manifested itself in a diversity of forms and as in 1938, those cases which, on admission to Hospital, presented what may be termed the true clinical picture of Scarlet Fever, have been comparatively rare. In most cases the disease may be said to have been fairly mild.

A good number of cases which have been sent to Hospital as cases of Scarlet Fever, have only been found to be suffering from a sore throat, and no rash, or a sore throat with an atypical and transient rash. These cases have been similar to those experienced in 1938, and again I would reiterate the observations I made in my report of that year, namely, that it would be fairer to classify these cases as tonsillitis, and not Scarlet Fever. Notifications of the disease, has, on the whole, been fairly satisfactory.

DIPHTHERIA.

26 cases of diphtheria were notified as compared with 59 cases during 1938. This gives a notification rate of 1.6 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 3.55 per 1,000 of the population for 1938. This rate is still higher than that for England and Wales as a whole, which is 1.14.

The disease has manifested itself in a diversity of forms from the point of view of severity from the beginning of the year to the end. This decline in incidence and severity has been part of the general

decline throughout the county, but I think that some of the credit for the decline must be given to the Council's immunisation scheme.

A very fair proportion of the children up to 14 years of age, and more particularly of those in the early and more susceptible age groups, have been immunised. Odd cases of true clinical diphtheria have occurred in immunised cases, but the disease in these cases, has been mild. Other cases of alleged diphtheria occurring in immunised children, have, on investigation, proved to be tonsillitis (haemolytic streptococcal in origin). In these cases of Diphtheria occurring in immunised children, it must be remembered however, that with the methods adopted, one hundred per cent. guaranteed immunity, was not promised. The question of keeping the scheme before the public by vigorous propaganda, in order that newly born children, and infants may be immunised as they grow up, must be borne in mind. In many cases, there is still an interval of several days between the onset of disease and the notification and admission to Hospital.

PNEUMONIA.

6 cases of Primary, acute, pneumonia were notified, which give a figure of 0.36 notifications per 1 000 population. This figure is rather low and I am afraid that the notifications of this disease have not been so satisfactory.

With the outbreak of War in September and the resulting influx of large numbers of troops into the area who were billeted in many cases with very primitive sanitary accommodation and water supplies etc. some anxiety was felt in case any outbreak of disease amongst the troops should transmit itself to the civilian population.

Prompt measures on the lines laid down in Ministry of Health Circular W.2, were taken, and systematic inspection of all camps, etc., undertaken. By the end of the year many improvements had been recommended in the various camps and many were carried into effect. There was still a good deal to be done at the end of the year, however.

It has been found that whilst eventually most recommendations are carried out, there is a very considerable

time lag between the recommendation and the carrying out of the work. It is greatly to be desired that this time lag should be reduced. It is also to be desired that prompt notification of troop movements into the area should be given. In many cases the arrival of new troops and the provision of new camps, etc., are only found out by accident.

The strict observance of these desiderata, by the appropriate authorities, will do much to minimise any outbreak of disease amongst the troops and the civilian population.

Up to the end of the year, the incidence of infectious disease amongst the troops, as shewn by the number of admissions to the Hospital, was very small.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of premises has been carried out by your officers in the removal of any case of diphtheria or scarlet fever, or on the termination of the period of isolation of the disease if the disease has been nursed at home. The clothing and bedding of the patient is disinfected in the steam disinfector, at the hospital. Disinfections are also carried out at houses where the death or removal of a person suffering from tuberculosis has occurred.

The number of notifications of the chief infectious diseases during the quinquennium preceding 1939, is shewn thus :—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.		Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Encephalitis Lethargica	Smallpox	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis
SOUTH SHIELDS RURAL DISTRICT.													
Year.	Population.												
1934	22,170	4	17	64	..	26	18	1	53	3	..	..	..
1935	21,990	4	19	85	..	17	17	2	43	3	..	..	..
BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT.													
1936	17,000	8	15	92	..	18	11	2	21	3			
1937	16,740	45	10	34	..	12	6	2	21	2	..	..	..
1938	16,620	59	9	113	1	10	7	2	10	3	..	..	.
1939	16,550	23	6	34	..	14	11	..	4	1	..	..	.

The following table shews the age incidence of each of the infectious diseases, and the incidence of the disease in each of the various wards :—

TABLE II.

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1939.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.											TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD.						
	At all ages	AT AGES—YEARS.										1 Whit- burn	2 Marsden	3 East Boldon	4 West Boldon	5 Boldon Colliery	6 White- leas	7 Cleaden
		Under 1 Year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and upwards					
1 Smallpox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2 Chicken-pox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3 Cholera .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4 Malaria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5 Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	..	..	1	1	3	..	7	6	1	4	1	..	..	..	..	9	1	3
6 Erysipelas	23	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	..
7 Scarlet Fever	6	..	2	2	..	2	9	5	2	2	..	..	..	1	3	12	2	10
8 Typhus Fever	34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9 Enteric Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10 Relapsing Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11 Continued Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12 Puerperal Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13 Puerperal Pyrexia	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
14 Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15 Poliomyelitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16 Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17 Pulmonary Tuberculosis	14	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	1	4	6	3	..	1	1	6	..	2
18 Other forms of Tuberculosis	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	2	..	5	..	2
19 Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	..
20 Pneumonia	4	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
21 Whooping Cough	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
22 Dysentery	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
23 One Case mixed infection	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	96	2	3	3	3	2	24	13	6	15	7	6	2	5	4	39	5	18

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the past year, fourteen cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and eleven cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

Six deaths occurred from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and four from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

TABLE VI.
NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1939.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0-1 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
0-5 .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
5-15 .....	..	..	4	3	..	..	..	..
15-25	1	1	2	2	..	..	..	..
25-35 .....	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	1
35-45	4	2	..	..	1	..	..	..
45-55	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	..
55-65	1	..	..	..	2	1	..	..
65 and upwards .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Totals	7	9	6	5	6	1	1	1

I have no reason to believe that the notification of Tuberculosis in this area is unsatisfactory, and it has not been necessary to take action in any case of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

